Attorney Docket No. 400.191US01

Title: MULTIPLE FLASH MEMORY DEVICE MANAGEMENT

THE MULTIPLE PLASH MEMORY DEVICE MANAGEMENT

REMARKS

Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 11-20 were provisionally rejected under the judicially created obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 11-20 of copending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 11/436,803. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 11 of the '803 application does not have limitations to the operations performed by a controller circuit as currently claimed. This is a non-obvious limitation since the claims in the '803 application can be performed in any manner. Claims 13, 17, and 20 of the '803 application do not require a "chip select" signal as in the present claims. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner that this is an obvious difference. The subject matter of claims 13, 17, and 20 of the '803 application can be executed for other types of select signals such as card select. Applicant therefore believes that claims 11 – 20 of the present application are patentably distinct from claims 11 – 20 of the '803 application.

Claim Objections

Applicant has amended Claim 11 as suggested by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 13, 15, 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 16 has been amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claim 15 has been canceled as discussed subsequently. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection as applied to claims 13 and 17.

Both claims have, in line 1, the phrase "An electronic system". Therefore, it is obvious to one skilled in the art that "the system" in the second line of these claims refers back to the "electronic system" thus providing sufficient antecedent basis.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3 and 5-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Borkenhagen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,067,105). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

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Claims 1 and 7 have been amended to include the subject matter of claim 15 that includes the limitations of a look-up table comprising logical addresses with their corresponding physical addresses. No new matter has been added by this amendment. Claim 15 has been canceled.

Borkenhagen et al. disclose a system and method for configuring the translation of logical addresses to a physical memory address. Figure 2 of Borkenhagen et al. shows a register that stores the 3-bit physical address of each logical card number (see col. 3, lines 42 – 56). As seen at col. 3, lines 57 – 64 of Borkenhagen et al., the six most significant bits of the logical address are converted by selector logic to the three bit logical card number. Physical card selector logic then uses this three bit card number to address the card identification register (see col. 4, lines 3 – 9). Borkenhagen et al. neither teach nor suggest Applicant's invention as claimed in the amended claims.

Borkenhagen et al. does not access a look-up table to find a physical address that corresponds to a received logical address, as claimed in the amended claims. Borkenhagen et al. simply decodes the most significant six bits of the logical address to generate the 3-bit logical card address that indicates a card number. There is no teaching or suggestion in Borkenhagen et al. that a look-up table is used. In fact, with the card number register used by Borkenhagen et al., a look-up table as claimed in the present amended claims is not necessary.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 4, 11-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Borkenhagen et al. in view of Daberko (U.S. Patent No. 5,787,445).

Claims 11, 13, 17, and 20 have been amended to include the limitations of claim 15, namely a look-up table comprising the logical addresses and their corresponding physical addresses. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Applicant believes, from the above remarks, that Borkenhagen et al. neither teach nor suggest Applicant's presently claimed subject matter. Daberko only discloses flash memory and neither teaches nor suggests Applicant's presently claimed subject matter. Therefore, since neither reference teaches or suggests Applicant's presently claimed subject matter, even if it were obvious to combine Borkenhagen et al. with Daberko, the combination still would not anticipate the present invention as claimed in the amended claims.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, Applicant believes that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Please charge any further fees deemed necessary or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 501373.

If the Examiner has any questions or concerns regarding this application, please contact the undersigned at (612) 312-2211.

Respectfully submitted,

12/04/06

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